

THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER, Pt. 4

Multiple Scripture References

Point 1: We **must** pray because the will of God is not released for action until we do.

Point 2: We must pray according to **God's will** and not our own.

Point 3: We must pray **believing** that He will hear and will answer our petitions

Then last week, we looked at ten hindrances to prayer – not things that hinder us from prayer, but things that hinder God from hearing our prayer.

Ten Hindrances to Prayer

1. Unrighteousness
2. Sin
3. Disobedience
4. Unbelief
5. Disregard for Scripture
6. Idolatry
7. Unforgiveness
8. Selfishness
9. Ignoring the poor
10. Unhealthy marital relationship

Ten Things that Cause Our Prayers To Be Heard

1. R_____

1 John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

Job 36:7 He does not withdraw his eyes from the righteous...

Psalms 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. 17 When the righteous cry for

help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

He has chosen us to righteousness. He has called us to salvation. We are His by d_____, and He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us.

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.

2. H_____

Dan. 10:12 Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words."

Isaiah 66:2 ...this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

Luke 18:10 Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get." 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Humility does not mean thinking less of yourself; it means not thinking about yourself a_____.

In humility, we turn our eyes away from our own desires and look in the same d_____ that God is looking.

3. R _____

Luke 18:13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!"

Repentance is t _____ away from sin and walking in the ways of holiness.

Our prayers will only be heard when we have come to experience the...

4. F _____ of God

Psalms 145:19 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.

Psalms 34:9 Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!

5. O _____

1 John 3:22 Whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

John 14:21 Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him... 23 If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

The reason God does not hear the prayers of the unrighteous is because they have n _____ to talk about.

Zeph. 2:3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility.

6. D _____ in the Lord

Psalms 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

Dallas Willard: "...prayer is this: *it is communication with God about what we're doing* t _____."

G _____ is the reward of heaven along with the presence of the Son.

7. A _____ in Christ

John 15:7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 6:54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

Psalms 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty... 14 Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

8. F _____

Heb. 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Heb. 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Martin Luther once summarized the relationship between prayer and faith by saying, "Faith is prayer and n _____ else."

Faith is the g _____ of God.

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering said to them, Have faith in God.

9. In Jesus' n_____

John 14:13 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

For praying in Jesus' name is not about proper wording of our prayer, but about proper **a**_____.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Matt. 18:18 Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

10. W_____

Matt. 6:9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Today, the incense that pleases God is the prayers of His people. He hears and listens for our prayers for they are to Him as "sweet bowls full of incense." (Rev. 5.6-8)

Picture God on His throne. Standing beside Him is the Son. Wafting up through the portals of heaven come the prayers of the saints filling the throne room with the fragrant aroma of incense.

What kind of prayers fit that description?

- Prayers of the righteous
- Prayers of the humble
- Of those who have repented
- Of those who fear God
- Who are obedient
- Who delight in the Lord
- Who abide in Christ

- Who ask in faith
- And in the name of Jesus Christ
- Who pray with the primary purpose of worship